

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 BIB-01 DODE-00

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FM AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 995

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L MARSEILLE 207

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS PO FR

SUBJECT: ATTEMPT BY PORTUGUESE COMMUNISTS TO DOMINATE THEIR
CONSULATE GENERAL IN MARSEILLE

REF: MARSEILLE 12

1. FOLLOWING OFFICIAL FRENCH CEREMONY MARKING 30TH ANNIVERSARY
OF DEPORTATION ON APRIL 25, PORTUGUESE CONSUL GENERAL MANSO PRETO
DISCUSSED RESULTS OF PORTUGUESE ELECTION AND SAID HE HAS BEEN
PLAGUED BY RECENT ASSIGNMENT OF COMMUNIST STAFFERS TO HIS CONGEN.

2. MANSO PRETO SAID AT ONE POINT THERE HAD BEEN FIVE COMMUNISTS
IN HIS BUILDING. IN ADDITION TO WATCHING HIM, THEY SPENT TWO
HOURS PER DAY LECTURING HIM ON POLITICS AND DEMANDING CHANGES
IN OFFICIAL ROUTINE. HE SAID COMMUNISTS REQUESTED HIM TO TURN
OVER CONGEN KEYS TO LOCAL PORTUGUESE COLONY AND OPEN ALL FILES
TO PUBLIC EXAMINATION. HE EXPLAINED HIS TACTIC DURING THIS
DIFFICULT PERIOD WAS TO LET COMMUNISTS TALK, "LET THEM OVERFLOW",
TILL THEY WERE FINISHED AND THEN SAY, "MAYBE YES...
MAYBE NO". AND TELL THEM PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS HAD TO BE REFERED
TO LISBON.

3. MANSO PRETO SAID HE WAS BOLSTERED IN RESISTANCE TO COMMUNISTS
BY UNEXPECTED MARSEILLE VISIT OF PORTUGUESE MILITARY OFFICIALS
WHO WERE IN FRANCE ON HELICOPTER PURCHASE MISSION. INFORMED OF
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HIS PROBLEM, MILITARY OFFICIERS TOLD HIM TO HOLD FAST AND DEMAND

THAT COMMUNISTS PUT ANY REQUESTS, SUGGESTIONS OR DEMANDS IN WRITING.

4. ACCORDING TO MANSO PRETO HIS TACTICS WORKED AND TWO OF FIVE COMMUNISTS (DESCRIBED AS "MAOISTS") HAVE LEFT. ALTHOUGH HIS FUTURE PLANS REMAIN UNCERTAIN MANSO PRETO EXPECTS TO BE REPLACED BY A NON COMMUNIST FOREIGN OFFICE PROFESSIONAL. HE SAID HIS VICTORY COST HIM TEN POUNDS OF WEIGHT AND HE DESCRIBED DAILY "CONVERSATIONS" WITH COMMUNIST COMPATRIOTS AS "HELL".

5. SOVIET CONGEN KONSTANTIN KILYCHEV, WHO OBSERVED CONVERSATION WITH MANSO PRETO FROM DISTANCE, LATER ASKED IF I HAD LEARNED RESULTS OF PORTUGUESE ELECTIONS. WHEN TOLD OF PERCENTAGE RECEIVED BY COMMUNISTS KOLYCHEV SHRUGGED AND COMMENTED, "AND THEY SAY PORTUGAL IS RUN BY COMMUNISTS*" SIMPSON

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